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OLD

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இலங்கைப் பரீட்சைத் திணைக்களம்
Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

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අධ්‍යයන පොදු සහතික පත්‍ර (සාමාන්‍ය පෙළ) විභාගය, 2017 දෙසැම්බර්
கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (சாதாரண தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2017 டிசெம்பர்
General Certificate of Education (Ord. Level) Examination, December 2017

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இலக்கிய நயம் ஆங்கிலம்
Appreciation of English Literary Texts

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மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்
Three hours

Note: Answer **five** questions only.

* *Answer question* **1** *and* ***four*** *others, selecting* ***one*** *from each section - POETRY, DRAMA, PROSE and FICTION.*

Part I

1. **Section A** – Answer **all** questions.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions given below them:

(i) "And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;"

(a) From which poem are these lines taken? Name the poet.
(b) What is referred to as 'there' in the first line? Name the literary device/technique used in the second line.
(c) Describe the effect created by the literary device/technique used in the second line.

(05 marks)

(ii) "Next morning I went up to the room. Snowdrops
And candles soothed the bedside; I saw him
For the first time in six weeks. Paler now"

(a) In which work do these lines appear? Who is the writer?
(b) What is the relationship between the persons referred to as 'I' and 'him'?
(c) Why did the speaker see 'him' for the first time in six weeks? Why did the speaker see 'him' as 'paler'?

(05 marks)

(iii) "He seated himself in a chair, dropped his chain on the floor, and then looked hopefully at me. It was quite obvious that he expected some sort of refreshment after his tiring journey."

(a) Name the work from which this extract is taken. Who is the author?
(b) Who is referred to as 'he' in this extract? What is the 'journey' mentioned here?
(c) How would you describe the character referred to as 'he'?

(05 marks)

(iv) "On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street."

(a) From which work are these lines taken? Who is the author?
(b) Who is referred to as 'her' in this passage? Why did she go to the street?
(c) Explain the feelings of the character referred to as 'her', as revealed in the extract. What do you understand by the words 'she fluttered'?

(05 marks)

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(v) "I think it's time for me to go, to make my reckoning and pay my debts, I see my time is up. Heed my example, everyone,"

(a) In which work do these words appear? To whom are they spoken?
(b) Where is the speaker going? What is meant by 'my reckoning' in this extract?
(c) Which theme in the work is highlighted by these words?

(05 marks)

(vi) "You women are so curious ...you can't resist the pleasure of sticking your noses into another woman's room."

(a) Who speaks these words? To whom are they spoken?
(b) What made the speaker tell these words?
(c) What is the tone of the speaker? Describe the speaker's attitude towards the addressee as revealed in this extract.

(05 marks)

Section B – Answer questions in **either** (a) **or** (b).

Either

(a) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it:

"My world for many years had been bounded by Lowood School, my whole experience confined by its rules and systems. Now I remembered that the world was wide; that a varied range of hopes and fears, sensations and interests, awaited those who had courage enough to go forward into its wide expanse, ready to seek wisdom and knowledge amidst its perils.

I desired liberty. In one afternoon I tired of eight years' routine, knowing that I needed change and stimulus. If I must still earn my living, at least I would seek new surroundings. My brain busied itself with my problem that night, and before I slept at last, my mind was made up—I would advertise in the local newspaper."

(i) What is the situation described in the passage? Whose thoughts are expressed here? *(02 marks)*
(ii) Why did the speaker desire liberty? *(02 marks)*
(iii) Write in your own words the meanings of the following:
  (a) perils
  (b) earn my living *(02 marks)*
(iv) How do these words reflect the speaker's personality and attitude to life? *(04 marks)*

Or

(b) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

"Of course there was no question of turning back. Having joined this 'procession', there was no way he could back out of it short of leaping into the sea and swimming home. Once in Bombay, he would have to stay, work and earn a living. Was he really ready for that? He felt unsure. He looked back over his shoulder at the flat, marshy coast of Rewas, too far for him to reach. Putting his head down on his knees, he closed his eyes in despair.

'Look at the boy,' someone said. 'Whose son is he? Have you nothing to eat, son? Here, take this,' and he was handed a cold, dry *chapati*, folded into a triangle. He took it although his throat was so dry he thought he could not possibly chew it or swallow it, but to be polite he bit into it and it gave him a little nourishment and strength."

(i) What is the situation described in this passage? When does this incident happen? *(02 marks)*
(ii) What is the 'procession' mentioned in the passage? *(02 marks)*
(iii) What do the following words mean according to the passage?
  (a) in despair
  (b) nourishment *(02 marks)*
(iv) What aspects of the person referred to as 'he' are revealed by this passage? *(04 marks)*

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Part II

POETRY

*(Answer **one** question only)*

2. "Human beings' insensitivity to nature is effectively presented in the poem, **A Minor Bird**." Is this a fair assessment of the poem? Discuss with reference to the poem.

3. "History is not always an accurate record of human achievements". Comment on this statement with reference to the poem, **A Worker Reads History**.

4. "The poet effectively depicts the futility and brutality of war in **Anthem for Doomed Youth**" Explore this statement providing examples from the poem.

5. Of the four poems under the theme of **life** in your syllabus, what is the most appealing poem to you? Give reasons for your answer with detailed reference to the poem.

(15 marks)

DRAMA

*(Answer **one** question only)*

6. "**Everyman**'s plot is based on the struggle of the evils and virtues, for the soul of man". Comment.

7. "**Villa for Sale** is a dramatic exploration of the role of deception in business". Comment.

(15 marks)

PROSE

*(Answer **one** question only)*

8. Would you agree that the relationship between the Prince and the Swallow in **The Happy Prince** mirrors the intense friendship favoured by society? Give reasons for your answer.

9. "Above all, **The Gift of the Magi** emphasises a gift's symbolic value in relationships". Is this a fair assessment of the short story? Support your answer with reference to the short story.

10. "The well-being of any animal is decided by many factors, along with the decisions of the humans involved". Write an analysis of **The Life and Death of Cholmondeley** in relation to the given statement.

11. "**The Dark Years** shows how a revolutionary is deprived of his basic rights and freedom". Discuss.

(15 marks)

FICTION

*(Answer **one** question only)*

12. "Hari is more committed and devoted to his family than Lila". Do you agree? Discuss with reference to Anita Desai's **The Village by the Sea**.

13. "Jane and Rochester's relationship is based on compassion and mutual understanding". Do you agree? Discuss with reference to Charlotte's Bronte's **Jane Eyre**.

(15 marks)

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Department of Examinations Sri Lanka